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Draft report

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Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 18 May 2015, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

"Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

"(a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

"(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

"(c) Working methods of the Commission;

"(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters."

2. For its consideration of agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial

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situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2015/6-E/CN.15/2015/6);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to crime prevention and criminal justice since 2012 in which action by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was requested (E/CN.15/2015/11 and Corr.1);

(d) Conference room paper on the working methods of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2015/CRP.1).

3. Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Management and the Chief of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The representative of Spain, in his capacity as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, made an introductory statement.

4. Under agenda item 3, statements were made by the representatives of Italy, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, China, Brazil, Canada, Norway and the United States of America. Statements were also made by the observers for Croatia, Sweden, Romania and India.

A. Deliberations

5. Speakers expressed gratitude to the Government of Qatar for having successfully hosted the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, welcomed the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening and integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the broader United Nations agenda, including in the post-2015 development agenda. Speakers expressed support for the role and expertise of UNODC in this regard and urged UNODC to continue its work in close coordination with other agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations.

6. Appreciation was expressed for the work of UNODC in assisting Member States in their deliberations on the sustainable development goals. Speakers highlighted the need to create effective partnerships within and outside the United Nations system to help Member States to achieve the ambitious targets set out in proposed goal 16 of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970). Reference was made to the key role played by UNODC in collecting data that could be used in reviewing progress towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals and UNODC was encouraged to continue its efforts to assist Member States in this regard.

7. The need was stressed for continued support for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the universal legal instruments against terrorism. Reference was made to the situation of smuggled migrants in the Mediterranean and the need to ensure full implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by

Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It was noted that an important tool for improving the implementation of the Protocol would be a systematic and effective review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. Reference was also made to the threats posed by counterfeiting and its links to other forms of transnational crime, and by illicit trafficking in cultural property.

8. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC and its role as a useful platform for exchanging information and enhancing cooperation on programmatic and financial matters between Member States and UNODC. They also expressed their support for the extension of its mandate. Several speakers noted the valuable contribution of the working group to enhancing transparency and accountability, and to promoting a culture of evaluation.

9. The increase in special-purpose contributions was welcomed as a sign of the continued confidence of donors in the work of the Office, while concern was expressed over the decline in general-purpose resources. Reference was made to the future evolution of the financial situation of UNODC, and speakers called for the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to consider an improved budgetary pattern for the Office.

10. Most speakers who referred to the full cost recovery model welcomed its implementation as an instrument for increased transparency and sustainability and called for continued evaluation of its impact on programme delivery. Speakers recalled the provisional basis of full cost recovery and the need to review its feasibility, and stressed the importance of its consistent and transparent implementation. Speakers expressed the view that the use of the programme support cost funds should not be limited to United Nations Headquarters and that their flexible application should be explored.

11. Reference was made to the importance of UNODC staying competitive, by maintaining low overhead costs. Cost-saving measures should be continued and further information should be provided on cost efficiencies, both in the field offices and at UNODC headquarters.

12. Several speakers welcomed the inclusion of the item on the staff composition of UNODC and other related matters as a standing item on the agenda of the Commission and requested that, in the future, disaggregated information on the staff composition of UNODC at the Professional and management levels be provided in writing. Speakers noted that, although progress had been made, there was a continuing need to improve geographical representation and gender balance, particularly at the senior and policymaking levels and for Professional posts requiring specific skills. They urged UNODC to take appropriate action by making additional efforts in that regard. One speaker called for an immediate action plan to ensure equal gender representation.

13. Several speakers underscored the need for constant improvement in results-based management within UNODC and commended the efforts of the Office to report on programme-level results. Welcoming the ongoing development of the annual report and annual appeal of UNODC, speakers expressed the hope that, along with the ongoing institutionalization of a culture of evaluation, those

documents would lead to a clearer strategic narrative that could provide a holistic picture of the achievements of the Office at headquarters and in the field. Some speakers also mentioned the need for defining robust indicators and for ensuring that the programmes of the Office be based on the rule of law and the full and consistent application of United Nations policies and guidelines in the area of human rights.

14. With regard to the working methods, some speakers noted that the number of resolutions for consideration by the Commission at any given session should not be limited. It was stressed that maintaining the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions pursuant to decisions adopted by the Commission at past sessions presented benefits in terms of constructive deliberations. Appreciation was expressed to UNODC for the yearly reports prepared on the standing items on the Commission's agenda, whose content was essential to supporting the Commission's deliberations; it was noted that they should continue to be prepared and made available to the Commission in the future. At the same time it was noted that Member States should give serious consideration to the number and frequency of reporting obligations, and that if additional reporting obligations were required, consideration should be given to whether such obligations could be fulfilled through existing reports. Reference was also made to the need for the full utilization of interpretation resources during day sessions of the Commission. It was proposed that the working methods of the Commission be discussed again at its twenty-fifth session.

15. Some speakers expressed concern regarding the model legislative provisions to combat fraudulent medicines posing threats to public health, referred to in paragraph 32 of the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the Office (E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2). One speaker noted that the information on that activity, as provided by UNODC through a note verbale following the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, did not include the full details of its funding, the process of selection of experts and its current status. It was also noted that there was no clear, standardized definition of fraudulent medicines at the international level and that a debate on this subject should take place in the context of the World Trade Organization and the World Health Organization, including under the latter organization's member states mechanism on substandard/spurious/falsely labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products. It was noted that there was no clear mandate on this subject, that greater attention should be paid to concerns expressed by Member States and that UNODC should refrain from further action until all Member States are fully informed and consulted.